

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) An artificial disc replacement (ADR) configured for placement between two vertebral bodies having a medial-lateral orientation and anterior and posterior portions, the ADR comprising:

opposing superior and inferior endplate components, each fixed to a respective one of the vertebral bodies;

a cushioning component disposed between the opposing endplate components; [[and]]

a pair of opposing anterior side portions extending downwardly from the superior endplate component, each portion including a hole therethrough;

a pair of opposing posterior side portions extending downwardly from the superior endplate component, each portion including a hole therethrough;

a pair of opposing anterior side portions extending upwardly from the inferior endplate component, each portion including a hole therethrough that overlaps with a respective one of the holes of the opposing anterior side portions extending downwardly from the superior endplate component;

a pair of opposing posterior side portions extending upwardly from the inferior endplate component, each portion including a hole that overlaps with a respective one of the holes of the opposing posterior side portions extending downwardly from the superior endplate component;

one or more rods passing through the overlapping holes of the overlapping anterior holes;

one or more rods passing through the overlapping holes of the overlapping posterior holes; and

wherein the rods have cross-sectional areas that are smaller than at least some of the holes through which they pass, thereby permitting anterior and posterior features that permit a predetermined, limited, movement of the endplate components relative to one another.

2. (Original) The ADR of claim 1, wherein the anterior and posterior features permit a predetermined, limited degree of flexion.

3. (Original) The ADR of claim 1, wherein the anterior and posterior features permit a predetermined, limited degree of extension.

4. (Original) The ADR of claim 1, wherein the anterior and posterior features permit a predetermined, limited degree of lateral bending.

5. (Original) The ADR of claim 1, wherein the anterior and posterior features permit a predetermined, limited degree of translocation.

6. - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn) The ADR of claim 1, wherein:

the opposing endplate components have overlapping lateral portions; and

the anterior and posterior physical features include mating projections and depressions associated with the overlapping lateral portions.